

# Motor Vehicle Regulation and Safety

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## Mission

To provide safe transportation in Indiana through traffic safety education, motor vehicle licensing and registration, driver licensing, and the management of all records pertaining to registrations, titles, and licenses.

## Summary of Activities

The **Bureau of Motor Vehicles** (BMV) operates 169 license branches, where it provides the licensing of drivers as well as the titling and registration of all motor vehicles (including watercraft). In calendar year 2002, the BMV was responsible for 6,908,598 vehicle and watercraft registrations and 2,202,076 vehicle and watercraft titles. 1,795,593 regular driver's licenses and 58,426 commercial driver's licenses were issued and amended. Approximately, 21,000 requests for driving records were answered.

In addition to performing standard transportation-related transactions, the BMV also processed 103,307 voter registrations and 111,063 organ/tissue donation applications. The number of organ/tissue donor applications in force on December 31, 2002 was 2,355,081. There are six driver's license reinstatement centers across the state, as well as a central office that is responsible for providing support to the license branches and ensuring the proper distribution of all taxes and fees collected in the process of licensing, titling and registering vehicles.



Indiana has developed an aggressive public information campaign designed to reduce impaired and dangerous driving. The **Criminal Justice Institute** Office of Traffic Safety provides grants to local units of government to implement highway safety programs. The **Indiana Department of Transportation** (INDOT) administers programs for railroad crossing improvements and school bus safety.

## External Factors

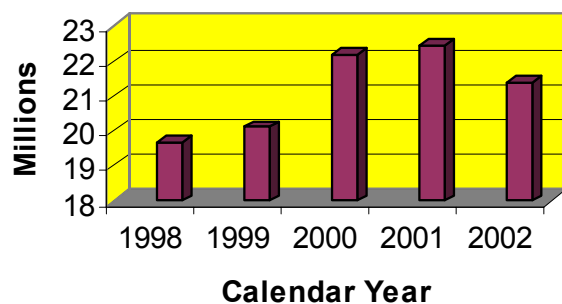
Demographic shifts in the state's population create a strain on the license branch system, as the need for services decreases in one area and increases in another. Increasing traffic volume on the state roads and highways creates new challenges for maintaining traffic safety.

## Evaluation and Accomplishments

The ultimate goal of transportation safety programs is to reduce the number of accidents and injuries experienced by Hoosier travelers. The number of vehicle accidents has dropped 2.5% between 1989 and 1998, with a 24% decrease in alcohol-related fatalities. The number of railroad crossing accidents dropped from 196 in 1998 to 182 in 1999, which is an all-time low.

INDOT has used Highway Safety Grant funds to enhance the mobility of the motoring public under adverse safety conditions by reducing the potential for accidents and providing a safer environment for motorists traveling through a construction work zone.

### Total License Branch Transactions



To provide more convenience and choice to its customers, the BMV has implemented several new automated vehicle registration renewal systems, including the BMV Express Self Service Terminals, Internet Rapid Renewal Service, and Touch-Tone Renewal. These are all available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A new driver's manual was issued with more up-to-date instruction for Indiana motorists. A new Driver Evaluation Task Force was created with the goal of establishing basic and fair standards for drive test criteria. Approximately 14,000 cases of abandoned vehicles were resolved, and a new driver awareness program was completed that provides alternatives to defensive driving participants.



A telephone survey conducted in September of 2001 indicated that the approval rating of the BMV has increased. The survey indicated that 93.9% of the 761 respondents felt that services are above average or very good. The BMV is in the process of converting to a new computer system that will be customer driven. This system will attach all associated transactions to the customer record so that information can be easily retrieved. This will prevent the need to update separate databases when a customer makes a change in his personal information. The new programs will also eliminate many errors currently missed due to the separately maintained databases.

## Plans for the Biennium

The Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving has set the following goals for 2000 - 2005:

- Decrease the state fatality rate per 100 million motor vehicle miles traveled (MMVMT) from a baseline of 1.5 in 1996 to 1.06 in 2002, and 0.92 in 2005 with progress demonstrated on an annual basis.
- Decrease the state injury rate per 100 MMVMT from 117 in 1996 to 103 in 2002 and 95.7 in 2005.
- Decrease alcohol-related fatal crashes from 0.32 per 100 MMVMT in 1996 to 0.20 in 2002 and 0.167 in 2005.
- Increase seat belt usage from 65% in 1998 to 90% by 2005.
- Reduce fatal crashes by drivers age 16 - 19 from 0.79 per 1,000 licensed drivers in 1996 to 0.592 in 2005.

